

Message Text

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21

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 /032 W

----- 072712

R 101630Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4060

UNCLAS PRIS 26400

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, FR, US

SUBJ: CIVAIR: PEGASUS INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL CLUB

REF: STATE 237353

1. SGAC INFORMS US THAT IN RESPONSE REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION OF NICE FLIGHT BY PEGASUS INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL CLUB TELEX WAS SENT AUG. 19 TO LESCHYLTER, PRESIDENT OF PEGASUS, INFORMING HIM THAT FLIGHTS BY TRAVEL CLUBS ARE NOT AUTHORIZED ON FRENCH TERRITORY. WHEN THIS PROMPTED RENEWED REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION BY PEGASUS, SGAC FOLLOWED UP IN REPLY WITH SECOND TELEX AUG. 26 REITERATING EARLIER REFUSAL AND REASON THEREFOR.

2. FYI-MME. THOMASSET OF SGAC ADDED THAT THIS GENERAL POLICY OF PROHIBITING FLIGHTS BY TRAVEL CLUBS RESULTED FROM NUMEROUS ABUSES BY SUCH CLUBS IN THE PAST. FOR AWHILE ONE OR MORE SUCH US CLUBS HAD OPERATIONS DIRECTOR BASED IN EUROPE AND FLIGHTS WERE OPERATING FROM BRUSSELS OR FRANKFURT ON NEARLY WEEKLY FREQUENCY, WHICH RAISED SERIOUS DOUBTS OVER THEIR LEGITIMACY. US SUPPLEMENTAL CARRIERS HAVE IN PAST COMPLAINED TO SGAC OVER UNFAIR COMPETITION FROM SO-CALLED TRAVEL CLUBS. ABUSES BY TRAVEL CLUBS HAD ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO TIGHTER ECAC-WIDE CONTROLS THIS AREA. NOTWITHSTANDING ABOVE GENERAL POLICY, SGAC HAD AUTHORIZED EXCEPTIONALLY FLIGHTS BY ONE US TRAVEL CLUB (PORT OF UNCLASSIFIED

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CALL) TO TAHITI THIS YEAR, BUT RENEWAL OF PROGRAM FOR

1976 FOR WICH CLUB HAS PUT OUT INITIAL FEELER IS NOT
FOREGONE CONCLUSION.

3. CONTRARY PARA 1 REFTTEL INFO, PEGASUS WOULD APPEAR
TO HAVE RECEIVED RESPONSE FROM SGAC AND REASON FOR
DENIAL WAS GIVEN. WE SEE NO LIKELIHOOD SGAC WOULD
BE INCLINED REVISE ITS POSITION RE PROPOSED FLIGHT
TO NICE, NOR DO WE APPEAR HAVE ANY LEVERAGE TO INFLUENCE
SGAC POSITION.
RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, SUPPLEMENTAL AIRLINES, TOURISTS, TRAVEL CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PARIS26400
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750354-0122
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751061/aaaacchx.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 237353
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 OCT 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 OCT 2003 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <04 FEB 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR: PEGASUS INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL CLUB
TAGS: EAIR, FR, US, PEGASUS INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL CLUB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006